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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,654	10/18/2001	Brian K. Kirkpatrick	TI-31459	8114
23494	7590 12/16/2003		EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999 DALLAS, TX 75265			KEBEDE, BROOK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
•			2823	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **Examisors for mempty be arising the date that provided and the provided under the provid							
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Brook Kebede 2823 Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for reply specified shore is less than they (00) days, a mey within the statutory minimum of bring (30) days with be considered streety. If the period for reply specified shore is less than they (00) days, a mey within the statutory minimum of bring (30) days with be considered streety. If the period for reply specified shore is less than they (00) days, any shy within the statutory minimum of bring (30) days with be considered streety. If the period for reply specified shore is less than they (00) days, any shy within the statutory minimum of bring (30) days with be considered streety. If the period for reply specified shore is less than they (00) days, and you will depend on the streety of the streety is specified and they are streety period will apply and will express (10) MoNTMS from the mailleg state of his communication. Any reply received by the Office stet then three menths after the mailing date of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any search period and accordance with the practice under Exparte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6 and 9-22 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 1,2-4,6 and 9-22 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)	Office Action Summany		KIRKPATRICK ET AL.				
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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claim 22 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Essa et al. (US/6,605,536), and . Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- 3. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Essa et al. (US/6,605,536).

Re claim 22, Essa et al. disclose a method for fabricating an integrated circuit, comprising the steps of forming a low-k dielectric layer over a semiconductor body; treating said low-k dielectric layer with a reducing plasma; treating said low-k dielectric layer with a wet solution; wherein said wet solution comprises H₂SO₄; forming a resist pattern over said low-k dielectric layer; and etching said low-k dielectric layer using said resist pattern (see Figs. 1A-1F; Col. 1, line 65 – Col. 4, line 52).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10-21 are allowed over prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject
matter: The prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed subject

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matter of the instant application as a whole either taken alone or in combination, in particular, prior art of record does not teach "treating said low-k dielectric layer to H2 plasma after said step of treating low-k dielectric with wet solution and prior to forming said resist pattern," as recited in claim 1, "plasma treating said IMD using H2 and an inert gas; treating said IMD using a wet solution after said plasma treating step, as recited in claim 12, "treating said low-k dielectric layer with a reducing plasma, wherein said reducing plasma comprises a H2 and Ar," as recited in claim 20, and "treating said low-k dielectric layer with a wet solution, wherein the wet solution comprises an organic acid selected from the group consisting of citric, acetic, gallic, and oxalic," as recited in claim 21 respectively.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 9-11, and 13-19 are also allowed as being dependent of the allowed independent base claim.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

- 6. THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.
- 7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure Tsai et al. (US/6,472,335), Shields et al. (US/6,492,257), and Eissa et al. (US/6,551,943) also disclose similar inventive subject matter.

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Correspondence

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Brook Kebede whose telephone number is (703) 306-

4511. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (703) 306-2794. The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722

for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-

0956.

Brook Kebede

December 14, 2003

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